

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A bottling plant for bottling beverages, said bottling plant comprising:
  - a bottle rinsing section for rinsing bottles;
  - a bottle filling section to receive bottles for filling;
  - a bottle capping section for capping bottles;
  - a product stabilizing section for stabilizing the content of the bottles;
  - said product stabilizing section comprising:
    - a plurality of spray arrangements, each of said plurality of spray arrangements being configured and disposed to spray liquid over at least one bottle;
    - a plurality of tank arrangements configured to receive liquid from said plurality of tanks and to supply liquid to said plurality of tanks;
    - an arrangement interconnecting said plurality of spray arrangements, said plurality of tanks, and said plurality of tank arrangements among one another to adjust characteristics and flow of liquid circulating in said product stabilizing section in response to interruptions of movement of bottles in said product stabilizing section;
    - a housing;
    - said housing comprising a roof, an inlet for the containers, and an outlet for the containers;
    - said roof of said housing comprising the roof for said housing and said plurality of spray arrangements;
    - a first portion configured to heat the product in containers by a first heated spray of liquid, said first spray of liquid comprising a predetermined first temperature to bring the product in containers to a temperature below the pasteurization temperature;
    - a second portion configured to pasteurize the product

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a third portion configured to cool the product in containers by a third spray of liquid, said third spray of liquid comprising a temperature to bring the product in containers to a temperature below said first temperature;

said third portion succeeding said second portion; and

2. A pasteurization unit for pasteurizing products in containers in a flow of containers through successive sections at least for heating, pasteurizing and cooling by means of fluid covering them, such as by trickling over them, or spraying over them, or subjecting them to a spray, with a pasteurizer housing and spray devices located inside it, characterized by the fact that the roof (21) of the pasteurizer housing (18) is realized in the form of a roof sprayer and forms both the roof (21) and the spray devices (22).

4. The pasteurization unit as claimed in Claim 3, characterized by the fact that the spray channels (24) are open on top and can be closed with an individual and/or common cover (25).

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a housing;  
said housing comprising a roof, an inlet for bottles,  
~~and an outlet for bottles.~~

~~a plurality of spray arrangements, each of said~~  
 plurality of spray arrangements being configured and  
 disposed to spray liquid over at least one bottle;  
 said roof comprising the roof for said housing and said  
 plurality of spray arrangements;

a plurality of tanks, said plurality of tanks being  
 disposed to capture liquid from said plurality of spray  
 arrangements;

a plurality of tank arrangements configured to receive  
 liquid from said plurality of tanks and to supply liquid to said  
 plurality of tanks;

an arrangement interconnecting said plurality of spray  
 arrangements, said plurality of tanks, and said plurality of tank  
 arrangements among one another to adjust characteristics and flow  
 of liquid circulating in said bottle stabilizing section in  
 response to interruptions of movement of bottles in said bottle  
~~stabilizing section.~~

10. A method of operating a bottling plant, said bottling  
 plant comprising: a bottle rinsing section for rinsing bottles; a  
 bottle filling section to receive bottles for filling; a bottle  
 capping section for capping bottles; a product stabilizing  
 section for stabilizing the content of the bottles; said product  
 stabilizing section comprising: a plurality of spray  
 arrangements, each of said plurality of spray arrangements being  
 configured and disposed to spray liquid over at least one bottle;  
 a plurality of tank arrangements configured to receive liquid  
 from said plurality of tanks and to supply liquid to said  
 plurality of tanks; an arrangement interconnecting said plurality  
 of spray arrangements, said plurality of tanks, and said  
 plurality of tank arrangements among one another to adjust  
 characteristics and flow of liquid circulating in said product  
 stabilizing section in response to interruptions of movement of

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bottles in said product stabilizing section; a housing; said housing comprising a roof, an inlet for the containers, and an outlet for the containers; said roof of said housing comprising the roof for said housing and said plurality of spray arrangements; a first portion configured to heat the product in containers by a first heated spray of liquid, said first spray of liquid comprising a predetermined first temperature to bring the product in containers to a temperature below the pasteurization temperature; a second portion configured to pasteurize the product in containers by a second spray of liquid, said second spray of liquid comprising a predetermined second temperature to impart to the product in containers a predetermined unit of pasteurization; a third portion configured to cool the product in containers by a third spray of liquid, said third spray of liquid comprising a temperature to bring the product in containers to a temperature below said first temperature; said second portion succeeding said first portion; said third portion succeeding said second portion; and apparatus to move the containers in succession from said inlet to said outlet in a flow of containers through the successive portions, at least for heating, pasteurizing and cooling by way of respective sprays of fluid which sprays cover them with respective sprays of liquid;

said method comprising:

rinsing bottles in said bottle rinsing section;

filling bottles in said bottle capping section;

stabilizing product in bottles in said bottle stabilizing section;

said stabilizing comprising pasteurization to a predetermined pasteurization unit from said roof comprising said plurality of spray arrangements; and

shipping pasteurized bottles.